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13 July 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, CIA Historical Staff

SUBJECT : CS Historical Program Progress
Report for FY 1971

1. Summary Evaluation:

a. During fiscal year 1971 an intensified effort has been made by most CS components to complete their portions of the current phase of the CS historical program. Efforts and progress are not adequately reflected, however, in production or publication figures for the period. It is apparent from an examination of the program that much of the work done during FY 1971 will emerge in published form during the first six months of FY 1972.

b. There has been a continuing problem of officers assigned to write histories being transferred to other duties before completion of their assigned histories, and in some cases before any effective work has been initiated. It will be noted from the attached tabulations that a number of writers were assigned to prepare histories but were inactive during the period. As noted in paragraph 2 below, writers have still not been designated for some of the overall DDP and component histories.

c. There are at present 298 histories in the CS historical program. During the past quarter four histories were deleted from the program since the subjects have been or will be covered in other, related papers. To date, 165 histories have been published in the CSHP series (145 before FY 1971 and 20 during FY 1971). Of the 133 currently scheduled, 20 are completed and in review, revision or being typed for publication; 51 are partially drafted (28 more than half complete and 23 less than half complete); 15 are being researched; and 47 have not yet been started.

2. Status of Writers:

As of the end of the period there were 62 writers assigned to write the remaining 133 histories. Forty-two projects lack writers. Of the 62 writers assigned, 44 are working full time, 11 part time, and 7 inactive. Fourteen writers have been assigned to write more than one history.

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3. Major Histories:

Major histories^{25X1X4} published during FY 1971 include:

CSHP-113 -

CSHP-117 -

CSHP-168 -

CSHP-196 -

CSHP-221 -

CSHP-251 -

CSHP-373 -

CSHP-384 -

4. Of the overall pre-DDP histories the OPC paper has been completed in draft and is undergoing review and editing; the OSO history is still in preparation. DDP history has been divided into three periods: A writer has been designated for the Dulles-Wisner period and will start work in mid-July 1971; the Bissell period still lacks a writer; research has started on the Helms period.

5. Dimensions of the program vary widely among the CS staffs and divisions. Components with large and active programs are: the Far East Division which has completed 36 of 48 projected histories; the Europe Division which has completed 23 of 32 histories, and the Africa Division which has completed 21 of 31 histories. A writer has not yet been designated for the overall Operational Services history. Of the Operational Services components, the Central Cover Staff has published the single history in its program; the Records Integration Division has published nine of ten projected histories and expects to complete its part of the program during calendar year 1971. The Soviet Bloc Division also expects to complete its program by the end of the year. Other components are less active.

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The Near East Division with 15 histories remaining has only one active writer. The [REDACTED] has a large program which is over half completed but has ten histories on which no work is being done. The problem common to all components is the assignment of adequate manpower. Overriding priorities and reduced personnel ceilings have precluded in many instances the assignment of adequate writing strength and have forced reassignment of personnel engaged in the program.

6. As noted above, the uncompleted portion of the catch-up phase of the CS historical program comprises 133 histories. Work is in progress on 66 of these of which some 20 are in final stages of preparation. Immediate and effective measures are required; otherwise, we estimate that over 60 histories of the projected program will not be completed in acceptable form by the end of 1971.

7. Action needed to expedite the catch-up phase of the program:

a. Assign a more stable and uniformly competent writing force and ensure that writers are not interrupted in the course of their projects. Provide incentives and recognition for writers.

b. In order to augment the limited number of qualified staff employees available for the program, expand the employment on contract of annuitants whose writing and research ability is known.

c. Recast the program in dimensions which relate to the number and competence of the writers the Clandestine Service is able to assign.

d. Review the remaining program to determine which units of history are most essential to the needs of the Clandestine Service and to the overall needs of the Agency. Delete the less important projects; concentrate on those subjects rated highest in terms of priority and value.

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CS Historical Officer

Attachments:

- A. Histories Published during Report Period.
- B. Status of CS Histories and Writers by Major Components.
- C. Status of CS Histories.
- D. Total Histories Published or Currently Scheduled.
- E. Remaining Histories to be Published and Ones with no Writers.